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New Government's plans...

Back in office for a third term, with an overall majority of 100 seats, the Conservatives are embarking on what Mrs Thatcher has called one of the most "substantial and radical" packages of legislation in recent years. The Queen's Speech last month proposed 17 important Bills.

Four areas are of particular concern to people with disabilities.

●As part of the plan to reform local government, a Bill will be introduced to abolish domestic rates based on ownership of property and replace them with a flat rate community charge levied on everyone over 18.

The aim is to make local councils more accountable to their electorate. People on low incomes would pay at least 20 per cent of the rate.

Under the Act for Scotland, passed last session, disabled people living in residential centres were exempted from the rate and presumably would be exempted again for the Bill covering England and Wales. But the Government has not yet agreed to exempt disabled people on low incomes living in the community.

●The Government will com-

plete the introduction of the reformed social security system.

The change from supplementary benefit to income support, due next April, has been criticised by organisations representing disabled people because more people will lose benefit than gain. In particular the social fund, which replaces one-off special payments with cash-limited loans, has been widely criticised for its harshness and difficulty to work - most recently by the British Association of Social Workers and the directors of social services.

Any financial concessions will be hindered by a strong commitment in the Queen's Speech to maintaining firm control of public spending, a policy underlined by John Major, ex-Minister of the Disabled, now Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who told the Association of Independent Businesses last month, "If any colleague comes knocking on my door with any ingenious scheme for spending more money, I shall remember the voice of the taxpayer and the businessman who have to pay."

●As part of the complete overhaul planned for education which emphasises higher stan-

Continued on page 3

...and some of the ministers



John Moore Nicholas Scott

John Moore, 49, is Secretary of State for Social Services. Energetic, telegenic and said to be one of Mrs Thatcher's "blue-eyed boys" (he secured privatisation of British Airways as Transport Secretary and was also at the Treasury and the Energy Department), he believes, as he told *The Times*, that "the nation wants us to care, but care effectively," and that the health service is "a huge success story".

Nicholas Scott, MBE, 54, is the new Minister for Social Security and the Disabled. Since 1981 he has been at the Northern Ireland office, latterly as Minister. He has been a shadow spokesman on housing and chaired the Commons Employment Committee. **Norman Fowler**, 49, is now Secretary of State for Employment, responsible for the MSC. **Tony Newton** remains Minister of Health at the DHSS and Mrs **Edwina Currie** is joined by Lord **Skellernsdale** and **Michael Portillo** as under-secretaries.

No money severely limits working of '81 Education Act

Lack of resources has "severely hampered" the successful working of the 1981 Education Act, says a new report from a House of Commons all-party committee. "A commitment of extra resources is needed if significant further progress is to be made".

The Act requires local education authorities to provide education for children with special needs as part of their duty to provide primary and secondary education. The Education, Science and Arts Committee was reviewing the working of the Act since it came into force in 1983.

No extra government money was allocated for the Act said the committee, yet LEAs needed extra funds to cover the administrative costs of assessing a child and making a statement of his special education needs, as well as to pay for teachers, equipment and adaptations to primary and secondary school buildings.

Although the committee thought that the Act itself had accomplished a great deal and LEAs and schools were paying more attention to providing for children with special needs, it was concerned that some LEAs were uncertain about the mean-

ing of "integration" or how to make suitable provision for it.

"Successful implementation of the 1981 Act is very much dependent on the development by an LEA of a clear and coherent policy arrived at in a way which enables it to command the support of those - parents, teachers and voluntary organisations - who are most affected by it", says the report.

Lack of guidance from the Department of Education and Science may have helped "fuel concern" among parents and voluntary organisations that LEAs are bound under the Act to close special schools and place children in mainstream.

"There is a need for a clear
Continued on page 3

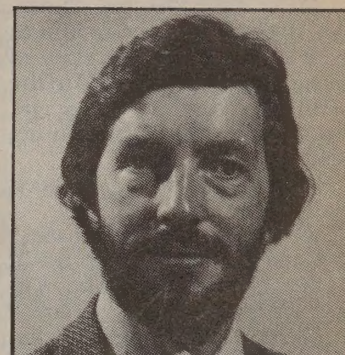
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Anyone for tennis? Noel McShane of the London Wheelchair Tennis Club needs all his concentration in a game with 1986 Wimbledon semi-finalist Slobodan Zivojovic at the Puma Tennis Teach-In last month. The day included a session of coaching and demonstrations for disabled tennis enthusiasts.

One man and his dog



David Blunkett joined Jack Ashley as the second disabled MP in this Parliament when he took his seat on Labour's benches last month with his guide dog Ted.

Mr Blunkett, 40, who has been blind since birth, was leader of Sheffield City Council for 7 years before being elected MP for Sheffield Brightside.

"I don't pretend that I speak for disabled people, nor should I. They must speak for themselves," he said. "I would say to other disabled people, get involved in pressure groups locally and pressurise your MPs, not just those who are sympathetic."

His 2 priorities are to do a
Continued on page 16

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

community and governments discard their patronizing approach to people with disabilities?
Tracey Booth
London NW1

Times Newspapers Ltd

Sterilisation position based on MENCAP directive

I was rather surprised to see that you published a letter from Mrs Meek (*Disability Now* June), for her advocacy of sterilisation for young girls with a mental handicap seems to be based on two rather shaky assumptions: a) if her 31-year-old mentally handicapped son had been a girl, she "would without hesitation have had her sterilised" and b) as my mentally handicapped daughter has never lived at home it's "alright" for me - whatever that means!

I would like to make it quite clear that my stance on sterilisation is based on a directive given to my predecessor, George Lee, by MENCAP's National Executive in 1976, instructing him to write to the, then, Secretary of State at the DHSS in regard to the sterilisation case of a young girl, which was currently causing much concern.

No change has ever been made in that directive.

I would also like to stress that I have never made any secret of the fact that Shelley has been in care for the whole of her life - but she does come home at regular intervals. So, contrary to Mrs Meek's view, my wife and I have regularly had to deal with the problems of menstruation and now, it seems, the early onset of the menopause, all factors which are part of the sterilisation issue. In spite of all her assumptions, that is one difficulty Mrs Meek will never have to overcome.

Brian Rix
Secretary-General
Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults
123 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0RT



Shelley Rix with her parents.

Offended reader

An article in your June issue concerned Mrs Thatcher making the delivery of Motability's 750,000th car and saying "Motability characterises the finest charitable instincts of the British people..."

I found this comment deeply offensive, though I am sure no offence was intended. It was, rather, a misguided statement (just as so many policies towards people with disabilities tend to be misguided!)

I am a Motability member. I do not regard my car as charity. It is paid for through my Motability Allowance which I have an entitlement to.

For too long services for people with disabilities have been regarded as charitable handouts. When will the able bodied com-

Disabled parking spaces

I would really welcome Tim Shapley's idea (*DN*, October '86) of disabled drivers and passengers carrying a supply of The Spastics Society's poster on disabled parking spaces reduced to A5 size leaflets to put under the windscreen wipers of wrongly and illegally parked vehicles.

I sincerely hope that The Spastics Society will go ahead and print these mini-posters and distribute them among disabled drivers and disabled passengers all over the country - hopefully in the near future?

Michael-John Wilkinson
Broomhall, Sheffield

We have had many letters supporting Tim Shapley's idea.

However, after consulting its advertising agency, The Spastics Society has decided not to reprint the poster as a leaflet. It is argued that the leaflet could arouse hostile feelings in a parking space abuser which could generate antipathy to the Society and disabled people in general. The Society is not opposed to other organisations creating a leaflet, but it would not like its own advertising used in this way - Editor.

DN's appearance

It was with concern that I viewed my emaciated copy of *Disability Now* last month. Had one of my colleagues "nicked" the central pages, I wondered? (There are always a few of us who look forward to our copy.)

I, for one, regard this newspaper as a useful source of accurate, lively, up-to-date and intelligent information and discussion which reflects the views, rights and activities of our disabled society. I can always be sure of reading what is going on - why - where - and what are the likely consequences.

With such a "thin" edition last month, should I assume life for our disabled people has become "thin" too?

Francesca Garman
Editor, Brittle Bone Society's newsletter
Sales director, Mangar Aids Ltd
Llandrindod Wells
Powys

Info en bloc?

I am undertaking a project financed by the DHSS Disability Equipment Assessment Programme to evaluate chair and bed-raising systems - all those blocks, sleeves, and so on that are "attached" to chair/bed legs to raise them.

I would be most interested to receive information from your readers as to how, why and which methods they use. Have any accidents occurred as a result of using such equipment?

Jennifer Milne (Mrs)
Senior Research Occupational Therapist
Occupational Therapy Department
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road
Cambridge CB2 2QQ

(sic)

DN's diary column
by Karen Wingate

Clamped

Most of us are inclined to snigger at the sight of a wheel-clamp on a carelessly parked Porsche. But it's no laughing matter when a disabled driver returns to his car to find it clamped - despite a prominently displayed Orange Badge. This is just what happened to swimmer Martin Mansell, who has cp, on a wet Saturday night last month. His car was clamped while parked near Piccadilly Circus in the London borough of Westminster, which refuses to recognise Orange Badges because, they claim, disabled drivers from out of town would swamp the borough.

Fortunately Mr Mansell is able to walk and could get a taxi to the pound, in the underground carpark at Marble Arch, to pay the £25 ransom. He then had to wait 2-3 hours before his car was released. He admits the car was illegally parked and he was willing to pay a fine - but what if he had been a wheelchair user? How would he have hailed a taxi, and what if his wheelchair was not foldable? What if there was nowhere accessible to wait until the car was released - or he had to go to the toilet? These questions are not totally hypothetical. The officer at the pound said several people in wheelchairs had been in to pay ransoms after their cars were clamped. Mr Mansell has sent a letter of complaint to the Commissioner of Police.

Housebound

On the subject of transport, the Dial-A-Ride Users' Association held a pre-election meeting last month at which members were invited to question representatives of the main parties about their plans for Dial-A-Ride. The guests were Peter Bottomley, Under-secretary of State for Transport, for the Conservatives, Ken Livingstone for Labour and Simon Acland for the Alliance. Unfortunately, many of the disabled people who wanted to attend couldn't - there just weren't enough Dial-A-Rides to get them all there. The problem spoke for itself.

Old-fashioned

Tucked in amongst the many up-market stands at Naidex - and even a dolly bird - there is still the odd company advertising gloomy products in depressing language. DN's editor spotted a stand at Manchester displaying dreary, unimaginative dresses. The banner? "Getting to geriatric incontinent handicapped".

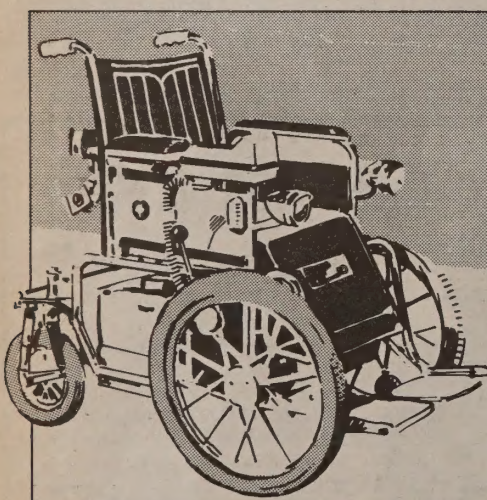
Contributions, please, to DN

Share your problems by phone

If you want advice on a personal or spiritual problem, why not talk to Lin Berwick, *Disability Now's* telephone counsellor, who is disabled herself?

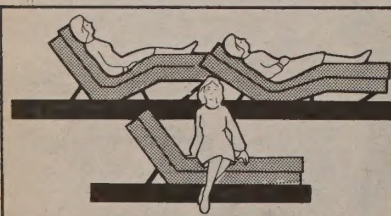
Lin is at the end of the line on Monday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm, and on Thursdays from 6pm to 10pm.

Her telephone number is Hornchurch (04024) 58325.



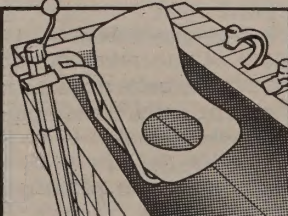
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Carers who can't say "no"

Carers should be able to refuse to look after elderly or disabled relatives at home unless support and respite services are available, says the National Council for Carers.

A report published by the organisation reveals that many carers are never asked if they are willing to care, or if they can cope. Although many take on the role voluntarily, they should still be given the opportunity to ask for help, it says.

Individual case histories reveal the stress and physical pressure placed on carers.

● Mrs M. from Liverpool has to get up at 5 am to attend to her bed-ridden mother before leaving for work, as well as coping with a young family and a troubled marriage. She was never asked if she could cope. Her doctor said there was not much that could be done for her mother but that she should "carry on like

a good girl". Mrs M. is 42.

● Miss O. from Barton, Cambridge has looked after her senile mother for 5 years. She is 59 and has a senior position in investment banking. To get a reasonable pension she must work until she is 60, but has come close to losing her job because of all the time she must take off to care for her mother. "The reaction of professionals has been horrendous in its disinterest of my situation," she wrote. "I am in near despair. I feel so isolated, so without help."

"Carers should be listened to and given support at an earlier stage before a situation breaks down or reaches a crisis with the carer's own health at risk," the report concludes.

Can a Carer say "No" . . . ? *The National Council for Carers, 29 Chilworth Mews, London W2 3RG. Price £1.*

Parents get new self-help centre

Romford Recorder

The Parent Handicap Information Group (PHIG) opened a resource centre for families with disabled children last month - the first to be run by a Spastics Society affiliated group.

PHIG, a support group run by parents, has not had a base since it was set up in 1981. The new centre in Romford, Essex, means that for the first time parents with disabled children will have a place to come to for information, or for a friendly chat.

The group also plans to start a series of seminars and training days for families, on subjects such as education and care.

The centre will be open 5 days a week from 10 am to 2 pm. It has an office, a large meeting room and a playroom, where a creche for able-bodied and disabled children will be held.

"It's very good for us to have a place to come where we can talk to other parents in a homely sur-



Danielle Gray tries out a rocking horse with mother, Marion, and Douglas Shapland, chairman of The Spastics Society.

rounding," said Karen Richards. Her daughter, 6-year-old Karina, has cerebral atrophy.

The resource centre was started with a £10,000 grant from The Spastics Society's London Region, and money from donations and trusts.

Birthday honours



Fifteen people working in the disability field were rewarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours List last month.

Among them, Peter Large (above) was awarded a CBE. He is parliamentary advisor for The Disablement Income Group (DIG), chairman of the Association of Disabled Professionals and chairman of the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled.

Philippa Russell received an OBE for her work for disabled children. She is principle officer of the Voluntary Council for Handicapped Children at the National Children's Bureau, chair of Independent Development for People with Mental Handicaps and a director of Contact a Family and SENSE.

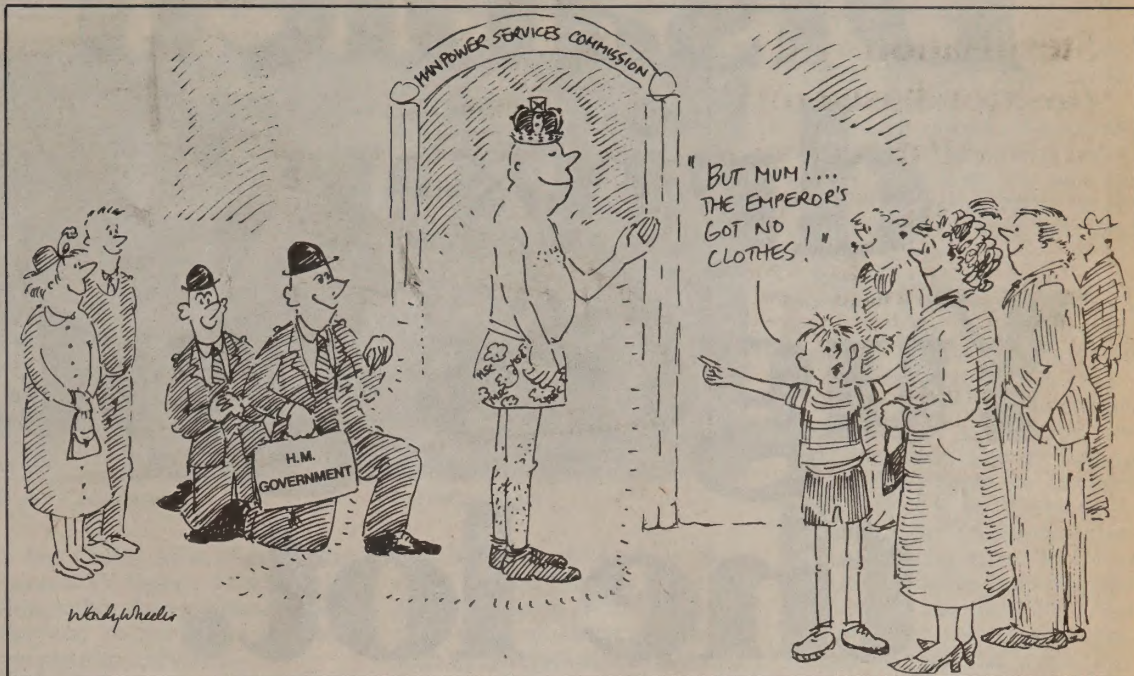
New Government's plans

Continued from page 1

dards and wider choice, there would be a national curriculum

As managers get together for the first time

Pioneer clothing workshop must close



The fate of one clothing workshop which supplies specially-made clothes to disabled people could be crucial for the future of all clothing workshops in Britain.

Fashion Services for the Disabled in Bradford was a pioneer workshop when it opened in December 1982 and since then 16 other workshops have started, mainly in the North of England, with another 10 planned. They charge prices for bespoke clothes that disabled people can afford.

All have relied on one year funding from the Community Programme of the Manpower Services Commission.

But now the Bradford workshop is due to close on 8 August because its Community Programme money - renewed 3 times - has been stopped, and no one else wants to pay £30,000 a year to keep it going.

"I think we are providing a social service," says Nellie Thornton, the project director. "Clothing is a basic human right. It's deplorable that people are stuck at home because they have nothing to wear."

She also worries about the effect of raising expectations which cannot now be met. "Nobody has thought beyond what happens once the MSC funding finishes," she says.

According to Ginny Jenkins, clothing adviser at the Disabled Living Foundation, there are probably between 50,000 and 100,000 disabled people who

with targets set for basic subjects and tests for children aged 7, 11 and 14.

Nothing has been said about the impact of this on children with special needs, but a new House of Commons report on the '81 Education Act calls on the Department of Education to pay close attention to the implications for them.

● The Government is to consult the Manpower Services Commission with a view to providing a comprehensive service for unemployed people. School leavers under 18 who are not going into employment and refuse a YTS place will lose their benefits.

Controversial changes are planned in special employment measures. Lord Young said during the election campaign that "the new Community Programme will operate at a premium of about £15 per week over benefit payments" - in other words, people would no longer be paid the rate for the job.

need clothes specially made for them and up to another 500,000 who need clothes adapted to help them live more independently.

Ideas for alternative funding were discussed by managers and would-be managers of clothing workshops last month when they came together for the first time at a conference organised by the Disabled Living Foundation. A representative from the DHSS was also there.

One suggestion was that the workshops could become registered charities which would make them eligible for DHSS funding under Section 64. Another, that the new social fund, coming into operation next April, should include payments for specially-made clothes so that disabled people could pay more realistic prices and allow clothing workshops to become more business-like.

Trevor Overton, development manager of the Devon North Community Agency, thought that with management training and the new MSC emphasis on

developing business enterprises, clothing workshops could extend their clientele and graduate into small businesses.

Managers agreed that there were too few disabled employees in the workshops but that short-term funding deterred disabled people from taking jobs because they would lose benefits which might be hard to retrieve.

Finding skilled workers and obtaining suitable fabrics were other concerns.

The conference talked about individual clothing problems and how some of them had been solved.

"One of the saddest things I get is 'send me your catalogue of clothes for the disabled'," said Ginny Jenkins. "You cannot have a mass production line - it just does not work."

Another conference is planned for next year and so is a newsletter.

A list of clothing workshops is available from the Clothing Adviser, Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU. 25p.

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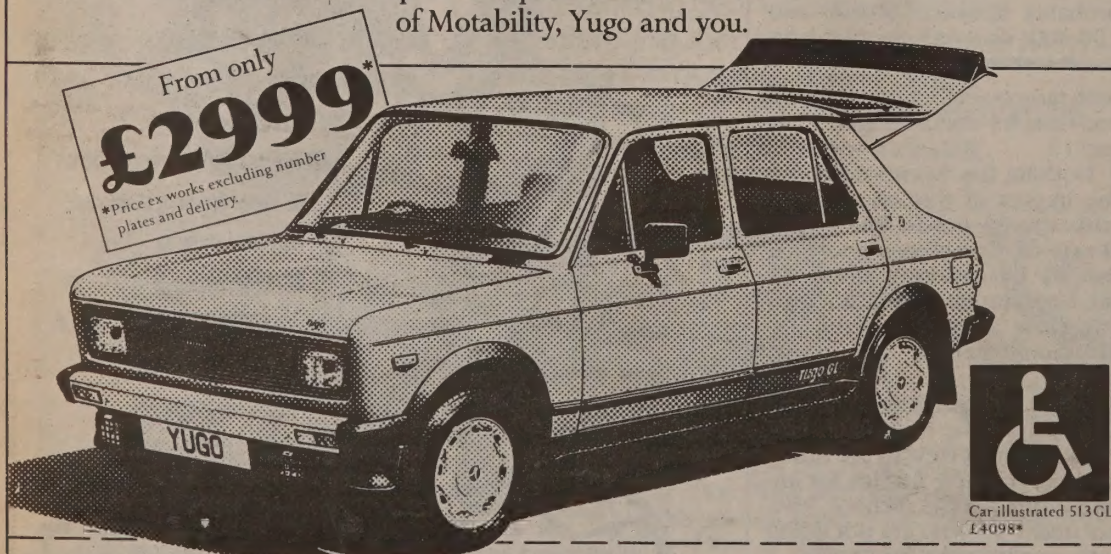
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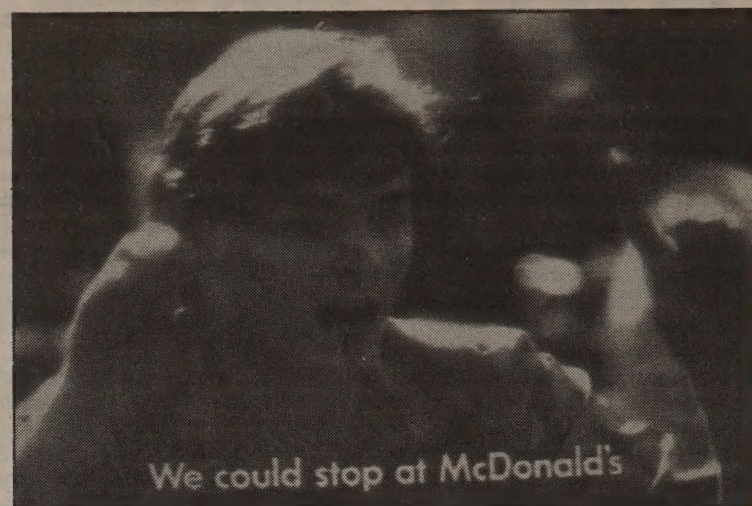
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It takes the USA . . .



. . . to put disabled people into commercials

Chris Davies reports

Three advertisements made for American television represent a milestone in the way disabled people are portrayed on TV. The commercials are for Levi's, McDonalds and IBM. They were shown on *One in Four* (BBC) last month as part of the Fairplay seminar on "Disability and Television".

Viewers tend to underrate commercials. They shouldn't. Slogans pass unnoticed into our subconscious. "Hands that do dishes are as soft as your face", "Beanz meanz...", and "And all because the Lady loves...", do not need the product's name; such is the influence of these mini productions.

For that is what they are. Many commercials are as expensive as a full length feature film, and take as long to make. Companies think the money is well spent.

Commercials are all about conveying a concise and precise message which can be understood instantly, sometimes within 10 seconds. The secret is to grab the viewers' imagination with pictures which need no explanation and capture the essence of the message and the product.

In the past, advertisers stayed with beautiful glamorous stereotypes of the white Anglo-Saxon middle-class variety. Now black people are seen increasingly in commercials, and men and women are no longer confined to the traditional roles of husband/father and wife/mother. In Britain, however, the images have not been extended to people with disabilities.

America is ahead of us. In 1984, Foote Cone & Belding, an advertising agency in San Francisco, produced a commercial for Levi's 501 Jeans, showing a succession of people clearly enjoying life. One of these people was Steve Weybrecht, a Vietnam veteran from New Jersey, who is seen to be so overjoyed that he does a wheelie in his wheelchair.

Two years later, Leo Burnett agency produced a commercial for McDonalds which featured a deaf man and woman arranging a picnic. The dialogue is entirely in American sign language with subtitles for the hearing audience. As in *Children of a Lesser God*, the impact lies in the dominance of sign language.

A commercial was also produced by Lord Geller Federico Einstein for IBM. It shows Jim Caldwell, a blind and partially paralysed systems analyst, talking about his life, job, wife, children, and his hopes for the future. Like The Spastics Society's

posters, the commercial deals with attitudes, not a product.

Both the Levi's and McDonalds commercials had a favourable press in America, particularly from disability organisations.

To get an idea of the reaction here, the commercials were shown to the staff of two British advertising agencies, D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles and Lowe Howard-Spink Marschalk, and to representatives of a voluntary organisation.

Their reactions were mixed. Most liked the Levi's commercial because the inclusion of the disabled person had a natural feel.

Given that Vietnam veterans form a sizeable proportion of the potential jeans market, they could see why this disability was chosen. But they acknowledged the danger of perpetuating a stereotype that all disabled people look like visually acceptable paraplegics.

David Jones, managing director of Lowe Howard-Spink Marschalk thought that the IBM commercial was more of a public service announcement, whereas Levi's and McDonalds had chosen to use disability to sell their products.

Both agencies were puzzled by the McDonalds commercial. In the absence of spoken dialogue, the sound track is devoted to sweetly sentimental music. Given the soft focus and the imagery of waves in the ocean, the commercial becomes heavily romantic. People disliked this sentimentality.

Deaf representatives of the British Deaf Association disagreed. They thought justice had been done at last by portraying sign language positively. Peter Shaw, the Association's assistant education officer, found it "excellent", adding "... it reflects the language level inherent in deaf people".

His assistant, Maryka Jackson, asked "Could this be the start of breaking down the barriers between hearing people and deaf people?" Because they could not hear the sound track, they were perhaps less affected by the sentimentality.

Unfortunately neither Levi's nor McDonalds plan to make similar commercials in this country. D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles and Lowe Howard-Spink Marschalk remain open minded.

If Britain were to follow America, disabled people's involvement wouldn't harm the products and could perhaps improve their self image.

TV bosses favour laws to ban discrimination

Mary Wilkinson reports on a day when bosses, broadcasters and personnel managers listened to disabled people

Bosses in the BBC and independent television agree that disabled people are under-represented in their programmes and their workforce and that the images of disability put over by TV are usually patronising and outdated.

They would like to see anti-discrimination legislation introduced, on the same lines as that in the United States, because it would strengthen their hand, particularly with freelance writers and producers.

These concessions came during a day-long seminar organised last month by Fairplay, the campaign for equal opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities, held at the London headquarters of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

About 30 disabled people supported by representatives from Equity and the Association of Cinematography, Television and Allied Technicians met over 50 people in management, production, personnel and training.

"This is the strongest lobby that I've ever experienced", said Roger Laughton, head of BBC daytime TV, afterwards. "It will be effective if it is both representative and collective."

Three recommendations were put forward at the seminar:

- A consultative body of disabled people should be set up to advise broadcasters and monitor TV programmes

- Companies should put into practice "proper" employment policies - including an undertaking to meet the 3 per cent quota



Maggie Woolley



Roger Laughton



Vic Finkelstein

of disabled employees as required by law, and also a quota for actors and actresses to be agreed with Equity

- Directors, producers and casting directors should have training in disability awareness

While no one promised to carry out the recommendations, Roger Laughton thought the consultative body had a good chance of becoming a reality and so had awareness training - the BBC has already run courses on awareness of ethnic minorities. Although the BBC was cutting back on staff, he said, "This is an area where we have a responsibility as an employer and we are not trying to evade it."

Claire Mulholland, deputy director of the IBA, advised disabled people to keep up the pressure, particularly for the 3 per cent quota. "If it is not being fulfilled, it is to be challenged", she said.

Ted Childs, head of drama for Central TV, believed that legislation, rather than persuasion, was the way to get more disabled people into television.

Vic Finkelstein, a founder of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, talked of the "dominant" able-bodied perception of disability as "inability", needing care or cure. Translated on to TV by able-bodied people, it produces programmes showing disabled people as passive receivers of help, or the exceptional "able" one as hero and role model, or, most often, they have no place at all.

He saw disabled people as an oppressed group, prevented from participating in society rather than unable to do so, and struggling for emancipation.

"Television can assist young disabled people to gain confidence in their right to a place in the world by encouraging the active involvement of disabled people

at all levels in television production," he said. "In this sense we are increasingly proclaiming the right to be disabled and to be seen as disabled; to see disability as the celebration of difference."

Peter Goodchild, head of BBC plays and drama, apologised for the way programming was handled and admitted that he and his colleagues were not familiar with such attitudes as "a celebration of difference."

While he favoured positive discrimination towards disabled actors and actresses, he did not know how the BBC drama department could influence freelance writers and directors to change their attitudes. He noted that only 50 out of 33,000 members of Equity were registered disabled (a figure later disputed by Equity because the register is constantly changing).

Michael Hempstead, a Fairplay member, reacted angrily. "You've got the power and

you've got the money", he said. "You're the one who can do something about it. We can't."

Although Peter Goodchild conceded that some responsibility lay with him, he said he couldn't change attitudes on his own and there were very few disabled actors.

Roger Laughton drew some flak for arguing that, based on a survey of *One in Four* viewers, disabled people did not see themselves as oppressed.

Maggie Woolley, chair of Fairplay and now a BBC assistant producer, compared the casting of disabled people for disabled parts in the USA to "the blacked-up white actor" tradition of able-bodied casting here. She said how rare it was to find a disabled character in a script. "The writer may not have had a disabled performer in mind but would employing a disabled actor not add to the production?" she asked.

A recent survey by Fairplay found that while most TV companies had an equal opportunities policy, very few had a programme of action to carry it out.

Once a disabled person does land a job in television production, said Maggie Woolley, "there is tremendous pressure to prove she can do the job like anyone else and this can involve compromise over access and special needs... so as not to be seen as incompetent."

Raspberry Ripple, a new BBC TV comedy for the autumn, has 7 out of 9 actors disabled. Its producer, Ruth Caleb, is now a convert to "innovative casting". Her recommendation? "Keep up the lobbying."

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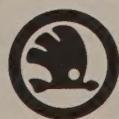


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MOTABILITY APPROVED

DN7/87

3rd Mobility Roadshow attracts record numbers

"The only opportunity to really go shopping, make direct comparisons and find true value for money"

John Byworth with Valerie Lang on cars / Nigel Smith on community transport

The Department of Transport Mobility Roadshow has become the Mecca for people who rely on specialist mobility equipment. It is the only opportunity to really go shopping, make direct comparisons and find true value for money.

The third Roadshow last month attracted a record 15,000 people. They took advantage of the 8 miles of closed roads at the road research laboratory at Crowthorne to have 3,100 test drives – double the number at the last show. 170 manufacturers of cars, caravans, conversions and wheelchairs, were there too.

Staff set out to make the day as easy as possible for disabled people: we were greeted with a free guide and directed to a car parking area where special places were reserved for wheelchair users or people with walking difficulties.

Most of the big car manufacturers were there. "Once again this show is proving to be the best we've done", said Keith Baker of Renault UK.

It was also nice to see smaller manufacturers such as Saab, Yugo and Skoda showing their models (for reports, see back numbers of DN) – though it was a pity that none of these were arranging test drives.

Renault UK got ahead of other manufacturers by showing their revolutionary Renault 11 fitted with an electro clutch. This was a standard manual car, with all the advantages of fuel economy, but a clutch operated electronically so that a disabled driver could pull away and change gear without using the left foot.

Fitted with Bekker hand controls, it was extremely pleasant to drive once I had got used to it. The car is proving popular with drivers who have recently lost the use of their legs. The clutch and hand controls can be fitted to all Renault cars.

Vauxhall, who traditionally have not been very sympathetic to the disabled driver, are now

John Byworth



Valerie Lang in the Nissan Micra.

waking up to the huge potential of the market. They showed a Nova fitted with electro clutch plus the Astra and Cavalier. As the leading supplier of fleet cars in this country, it will be interesting to see if Vauxhall follows Ford and Renault in developing a disabled driver division which offers discounts and advice on conversions.

Valerie Lang was shopping for a replacement for her automatic Metro. She finally settled on the Nissan Micra which offers a good

value package for the disabled driver and an unlimited mileage warranty (see DN, September '83).

Because she needs power-assisted steering we visited the Steering Developments stand to discuss conversions: they always have attentive staff and genuine consideration for the needs of their clients. The cheapest conversion on offer (about £850) was suitable for the Micra. They will assess Valerie's power steering requirement on a special simulator so that the pressure valves can be set correctly.

Wheelchair-carrying vehicles were again much in evidence at the show.

Poynting's conversion of the Renault Extra van is the latest for a single wheelchair passenger. Based on a high roof van it is less obviously a wheelchair transporter than the "ice-cream van" conversions of the Mini, Metro and Escort. It has independent rear suspension and large side windows to give a more comfortable and interesting journey. While it has the advantages of the Renault 5 engine and gear box and the steering is light, there is no power-assisted steering or automatic transmission. From £6,990.

Parents of disabled adults might like to consider buying the new Metro taxi, with its low floor and wide door. At £14,000 it sounds expensive, but it is built to do 400,000 miles and last at least 10 years. Servicing of the Ford engine will be as cheap as the Transit and as the taxi grows more popular body repairs and other servicing should become extremely cheap.

Plenty to celebrate – re-elected Transport Minister, Peter Bottomley, congratulates Brian Simmonds of Ottershaw, Surrey, on passing his advanced driving test.



Personal mobility was the main theme of the Mobility Roadshow with a fascinating range of hi-tech products on display.

"I hope that the show will help many people to make a start on the road to mobility and to find the independence that comes from being on that road", said Princess Anne who opened the Roadshow.

But the big question is, how many disabled people who need these developments can afford to buy them? It is obvious that government grants should be available.

On the community transport scene, vehicle hire companies have barely scratched the market for wheelchair-accessible

can meet current demand, let alone latent demand, and many areas have no Dial-a-Ride at all.

London Regional Transport showed one of the first 3 AIRBUS double-deckers converted for wheelchair passengers, which replace the Careline service between Central London and Heathrow. By September all 24 vehicles will have a Ratcliff lift in the centre of the bus which can convert to 2 steps, and there will be 2 wheelchair spaces on the lower deck.

The Beeline wheelchair-accessible Leyland Nationals, which provided the Careline service, were also at the show. They are now in demand for private hire and Beeline may run a mobility bus service in Bucking-

Nigel Smith



Better than "ice cream van conversions" – Poynting's Renault Extra

minibuses, so it was a pleasure to welcome Sochulbus of Ashford, Middlesex, which showed a 15-seat Talbot Express and an 18-seat Talbot Tri-Axle. Both have the Ratcliff chairlift and clamping equipment for wheelchairs.

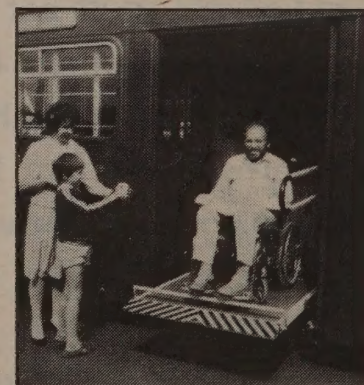
Sochulbus has "a simple objective... to provide on a self-drive basis the best vehicles and equipment that are available on the market today", and they are concentrating on this particular market. Vehicles will be comprehensively equipped, they say, and washed and checked for safety between each hire.

My only criticism is the unattractive looking name, pronounced "Social Bus". Why not spell it in plain English?

Dial-a-Ride pioneers (in 1981), Readibus of Reading, were showing their latest vehicle, a Mercedes 207D. Although there are now around 150 Dial-a-Rides serving some 100,000 mobility impaired people, no town or city has a service which

hamshire if the county council will subsidise it.

A breakthrough in the vehicle



Glyn Etherington from Chichester tries out the AIRBUS lift.

lift market was shown by the enterprising family firm, P & J Fretwell in Manchester. Manufactured in Quebec by Juré, the Montreal automatic lift can be operated by the user – particularly useful in a personal van conversion. There are also automatic power doors for sliding or hinged doors, a 6-way powered transfer seat and a power-operated floor section which automatically secures a manual or electric wheelchair in the correct position for driving.

Sochulbus, tel: 0784-242076.
P & J Fretwell Ltd, tel: 061 832 5862.



Filling a gap – the Sochulbus.

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DN7/87

What's new at Naidex? *DN* asked the experts. Tina Stevens, principal information adviser at the Disabled Living Foundation, and Frank Ward, a senior occupational therapist at The Spastics Society, give us their verdict.*

northern naidex'87

AIDS FOR THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY EXHIBITION

Should electric wheelchairs climb kerbs?

Tina Stevens reports
Naidex at Manchester was very mobility orientated. The largest exhibition stands with the widest range of products were devoted to mobility equipment.

There is clearly money to be made in this fairly high price field and manufacturers have to make money if new and innovative products are to be designed, developed and produced. Knowing that they cannot stand still in relation to the market and their competitors is another incentive. All this is to the benefit of people with disabilities.

The trend is towards electric wheelchairs and so I concentrated on these, hoping to find one that would climb kerbs easily and safely.

After years of trying I have to admit that very often electric wheelchairs and kerbs just do not mix and perhaps we expect too much from these vehicles. As one manufacturer said to me, "I would think twice about taking my estate car up a 5 inch kerb."

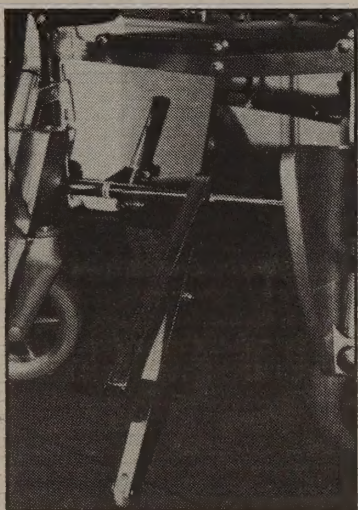
Everest & Jennings have introduced the **Elite Liberty** and the **Elite Home and Away**, both using maintenance-free batteries. The Liberty has large front wheels capable of travelling over rough ground but is compact enough to use indoors. It has front-wheeled drive and an extra wheel at the back to aid

kerb climbing. There is a new, sliding mechanism for moving heavy batteries and a fold down back for transportation.

The Liberty is neat, compact and fairly easy to control. It climbed steep ramps with ease, but failed to climb the 5 inch kerb at Naidex. The manufacturers do, however, only claim that it will climb up to a 4 inch kerb.

The Elite Home and Away joins the ever increasing group of compact indoor/outdoor chairs. It features offset motors which allow the chair to be made much more compact for transportation. A new kerb climbing mechanism will be available in September. *Everest & Jennings, Princewood Road, Corby, Northants NN14 2HS. Tel: (0536) 67661.*

NV Distributors have the Ex-



Newton's kerb climbing device

cel Sport (£1,875) and BEC Mobility the BEC 80 series, starting at £1,555. Both chairs use kerb-climbing devices set between the foot-plates.

The Excel Sport is a very attractive looking wheelchair with sporty livery. Its new control box made the chair easy and smooth to control. With the motors redesigned to give 40 per cent more power, the chair did climb ramps very easily but failed on the 5 inch kerb. However, the manufacturer, with a better technique, succeeded! The wheelchair has a new split battery pack for easier lifting and a new anti-tipping device. *NV Distributors, Soothouse Spring, Valley Rd Ind. Estate, St Albans, Herts. Tel: (0727) 34255.*

The BEC 80 series also has new improved motors and a choice of attendant, user or dual controls. The joystick was easy and smooth. There is now a foldable and detachable backrest – an improvement on previous models. *BEC Mobility, Fens Pool Avenue, Wallows Ind. Estate, Brierley Hill, W Midlands DY5 1Q4. Tel: (0384) 263191.*

Newton Products have a kerb climbing device for their compact Elan Powered Wheelchair and the Elan MkII Power Chair. Set between the footplates, it has two positions – retracted when not in use and "armed" for attempting up to a 4½ inch kerb. It has to be



Tina Stevens tries out Everest & Jennings' Elite Liberty (£1,595).


adjusted into position by the wheelchair user, using a small lever either side of the chair – a tiresome procedure and possibly difficult for those with impaired hand dexterity.

As the chair approaches the kerb a telescopic arm adjusts the lifting arm to the kerb height and the wheelchair is powered up and over the kerb by the lifting arm. I tried this mechanism on a 2 inch lipped kerb and it performed very smoothly. The wheelchair should, however, be turned around to come down kerbs backwards. About £60. *Newton Products Ltd, Meadway Works, Garretts Green Lane, Birmingham, West Midlands B33 0SQ. Tel: (021) 783 6081.*

There were 3 new kerb climbing scooters at Naidex. The **Booster Town and Country** is a much improved vehicle with an attractive silver body and a new, improved control console, with speed governor and a small tray for carrying items such as drinks. It was nippy and easy to steer, climbed ramps easily and managed a 5 inch kerb with ease.

Booster has also introduced a scooter for children with the same capacity as its big brother. It showed an alternative seat unit which has adjustable components for the child or small adult with impaired trunk stability. *Booster Electric Vehicles, Bridge Works, Honley, Huddersfield, W Yorks. Tel: (0484) 666300.*


* Micro-tech report next month




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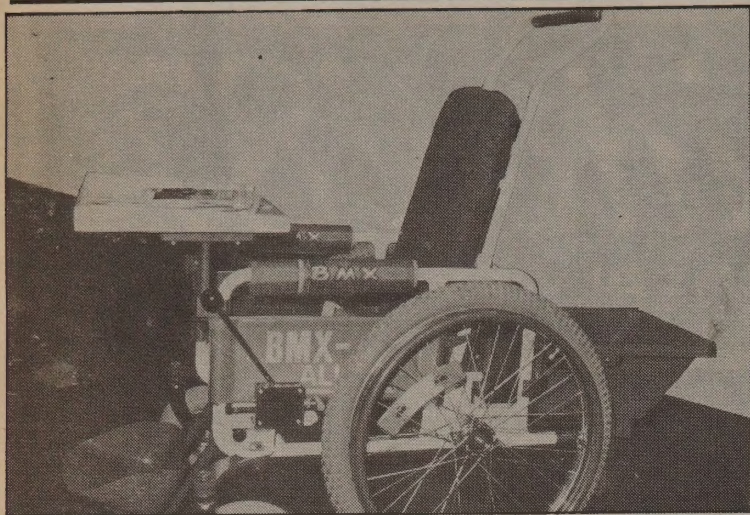
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DN7/87



Children on wheels

The **B.M.X. Chair** from Denmark is, as it sounds, an attempt to make a child's mobility aid as much fun as the B.M.X. bike. Brightly coloured, racey looking, with large self-propelling wheels and B.M.X. tyres, it comes in 3 different seat sizes and is attractively upholstered. But it was fairly heavy to manoeuvre and to lift. However, there are quick-release wheels and the chair collapses into smaller components for transportation. £495 from **Samson Products**.

The **Chailey Adapta Seat**, developed by a research team at the Chailey Heritage Hospital, is a seating system which can be easily adapted and adjusted by a therapist to meet the individual needs of a child with posture and stability difficulties. It may be mounted on a special wheeled chassis produced by Everest & Jennings or fitted to any manual or powered wheelchair as long as purpose-built interface boards are used to level the seat.

The basis of the Adapta-Seat is a cushion ramped at 15° and a vertical but curved backrest with a sacral pad. It comes in 5 different sizes and has an array of easily adjustable thoracic, head, side and pommel supports. Under £500, from Everest & Jennings and Prince & Fletcher.



Valerie Taylor tries the Glider.

Walking aids

The **Glider** is a mobile frame with a 4-wheel base and a fold-down seat. It folds up easily. Useful for someone who uses a walking frame but cannot manage to walk long distances without having a rest. A useful trolley tray or a wire mesh basket can be fitted. £76 from **Uniscan Ltd**, 12 Samson House, Arterial Road, Basildon, Essex SS15 6DR, tel: (0268) 419288.

The **City Rollator** is an adjustable-height, Rollator-type frame with a large shopping bag attached to the front which promotes stability. £97.99. **J & A Carters Ltd**, Alfred Street, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3DZ, tel: (0373) 822203.

Transichair "find"

My last "find" was the **Samson Transichair**, a hoist for lifting and moving a person from bed, chair, floor, or into a car. The metal-framed chassis and mast can have a pommel fitted to it to help with walking or an upholstered, metal-framed chair with or without dropped-down sides.

It was not possible to test the Transichair getting in and out of a car, but as this is often incredibly difficult for carers and people with disabilities to do, I look forward to seeing if this new aid can crack the problem. £700-£1,445, depending on components, from **Samson Products**, 239 Alder Rd, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, tel: (0202) 740458.

Carry-away chair

Considering more conventional wheelchairs, Newton Products has improved what, for many years, was the lightest of the standard wheelchairs, the **Newton Ultra-lightweight**. Available as a transit or self-propelling model, it has a backrest which folds down completely so that the chair can be transported very compactly in its own carrying bag. £270 plus £20 for the bag.

Ways to stay independent

Frank Ward reports

The **Controller chairs** from **Stowaway Furniture and Design** can accommodate people of varying disability, shape or size and still look pleasing. They have an adjustable backrest, which gives the right amount of support and "hold" without straps or restraints and adjusts to various angles. Prices start from around £300. **Stowaway Furniture and Design**, 29 Midland Road, Bedford MK40 1PL.

On display for the first time outside Scotland were the **May Isle** fibreglass, wood and metal **ramps** - a portable yet substantial modular system which can be adapted for different entrances. Prices from £45 per foot depending on location. **May Isle Company Ltd**, Kirkland Industrial Estate, Steel Brae, Methil, Fife KY8 2HY, tel: (0333) 24287.

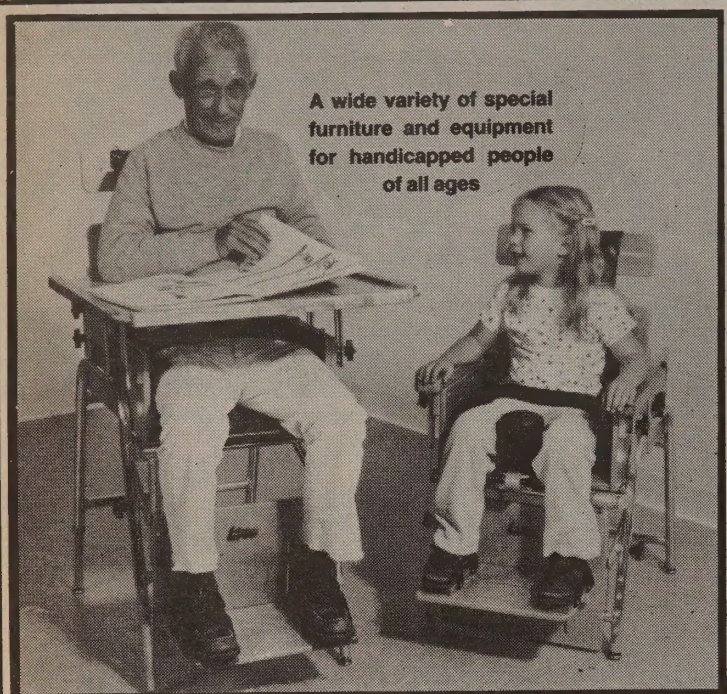
The **Kirton Rocker** (from £169) is a new and interesting addition to the seating range, available with the usual extras such as head pads and a "Peto" tray. The adjustable height **Disabled Work Station** (£87) looks versatile for education, recreation or work. **Kirton Designs**, Bungay Rd, Hempsall, Norwich NR15 2NG.

Arousing interest on the **Helping Hand** stand was the **Akros WC cushion**. Expensive at around £100, but possibly vital for people prone to pressure sores.

The new **SML Warley bed** - an electric "posturing chair bed" seems to be good value at £600. It allows someone to sit up fairly comfortably in bed and also get in and out more easily. **SML Bath Place**, High Street, Barnet EN5 5EX, tel: 01-440 6522.

ASM from Cheshire have recently brought out an **upright shower cradle** which gives more support than the standard shower chair but is small enough to fit in the standard size wheel-in shower area. The exhibition model was fitted with new easier gliding castors and easy-to-operate brakes. £114 from **ASM Medica Aids**, Picow Farm Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire, tel: 09285 74301.

A simple but useful device, the **Limpet non-slip mat** from **Health & Comfort**, is said to have the advantage of other non-slip mats because it is washable in a machine (or soapy water) and is not affected by dust which can reduce the non-slip qualities. From £1.75 for a 5½ in



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Controller chairs support and hold without straps or restraints.



Vincent Ross in the Chevron sports chair signed by people with disabilities.

round mat. **Health & Comfort Ltd**, PO Wesbury, Wilts BA13 4LS, tel: (0373) 419288.

A new shower cabinet, the **Indep** (£1135 plus fitting) from **AKW** allows sideways access on to a mould with a fold-down handgrip. There is a shower position for a standing person. Other members of the family can use the cabinet too. **AKW Leisure**, Orchard Stock Green, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 6SZ, tel: 0386 792785.

The large child-size **bath chair** from **ton** is now available in a slimmer version for narrower baths. £185.40. **Robertsbridge**, East Sussex TN32 5DR, tel: (0580) 880626.

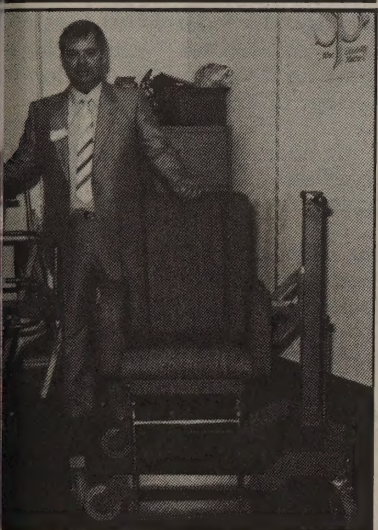
Homecraft's stand was full - as was the personal aids, including a new **Ma Stand** (£3.40) to enable "hands free" and the new **Easy Reachers** (from £1.99) with modified jaws and handles. **Ma Stand** catalogue from **Homecraft**, 27 Trinity Lane, London SW17 7SF.

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Frank Ward

new Dextra hoist.



tions of the Samson Transichair.

The Chevron sports chair (left) from the Greenbank Project in Liverpool - which employs disabled people - is a British designed and constructed lightweight adjustable wheelchair that at £500 definitely undercuts the imported foreign wheelchairs. It was encouraging to see wheelchairs designed by disabled people. Greenbank Project, Handicapped Workers Co-operative, Edwards Lane, Speke, Liverpool L24 9HG, tel: 051 486 3525.

Taking the effort out of lifting

It has often been difficult to persuade some carers at home, in hospitals or residential homes, to use equipment which they find fiddly or cumbersome. Several interesting new developments in this field could make life easier for them as well as for people with disabilities.

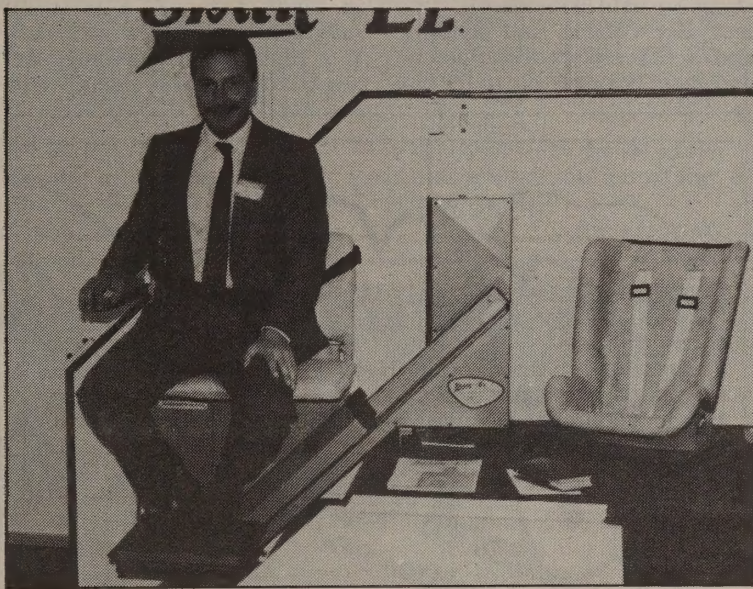
Mecanoids' Dextra hoist (£985 plus delivery) is a totally new design. The base moves forward in a straight line without the usual supermarket-trolley wobble because a fifth wheel can be lowered by means of a small handle allowing the hoist to be steered more accurately. When the handle is released, the hoist is much more easily manoeuvred on its 4 free-moving castors.

A manufacturer's report says that the hoist is comfortable, easy to move in a straight line and can be used in confined spaces. A new sling system features colour coded slings for people of different weight. The slings are easy to fit and instead of chains have a simple slip-on attachment. The angle the person sits or lies in the hoist can be

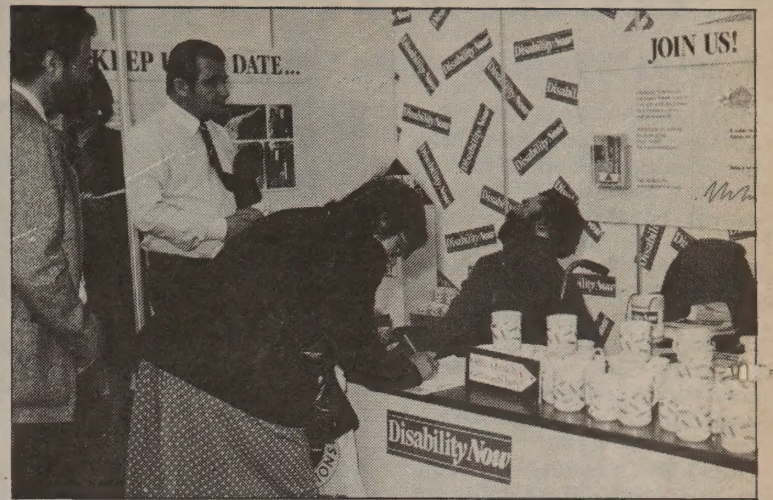
adjusted by an easily-operated handle which should make the whole lifting operation much more comfortable for the user. **Mecanoids Ltd, St Catherine St, Gloucester, tel: (0425) 500200.**

Carters were also displaying a hoist which is said to be easier for the operator to use: an electrically-operated development of the **Compact Lifter**, suitable for home use. Lifting is smoother with less mechanical effort than the standard hydraulic model and adds no extra weight. Frequent battery recharging should not be necessary. £599 plus delivery from **J & A Carter.**

Arjo's lift bath chair 218383 is one of the few items in the range which is ideal for home use. Floor-mounted, it has a stable seat on which to transfer, a hydraulic raiser and a removable backrest so that the user may lie in the bath - something many people who use bath aids miss. £625 plus fitting. **Arjo Hospital Equipment Ltd, SPD Building, Acre Road, Reading, Berks, tel: (0734) 866789.**



Steve Wilcox on the updated Stair El stair-lift. A child's seat can also be fitted.



DN's stand attracted 500 new readers as well as many people who stopped for a talk - or to meet our TV critic, Chris Davies. 120 new DN mugs were sold for £1 each. For those who missed out, they will be on DN's stand at London Naidex.

New stair- and through-floor lifts

Terry Lifts showed an electrical conversion of their well-established through-floor lift for a standing or wheelchair passenger. The electrical conversion (£250 extra) allows the winding handle to be operated electrically. There are no sophisticated pressure sensitive switches but the manufacturer says these are unnecessary because the lift will stop if it meets an obstacle.

For people with a risky electricity service or particular fears of electrical failure there is a battery-operated version. **Terry Lifts, Unit 6, Wolfe Close, Parkgate Industrial Estate, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8XJ.**

A more sophisticated type of floor lift is the new **Minivator Eagle** "wall climbing" lift, mounted on a supporting wall. The Eagle 800 for a wheelchair costs £2,845 plus installation and building costs, while the very compact 520 with an integral seat is £2745 plus installation. **Minivator, Townsend In-**

dustrial Estate, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire LU5 5BA.

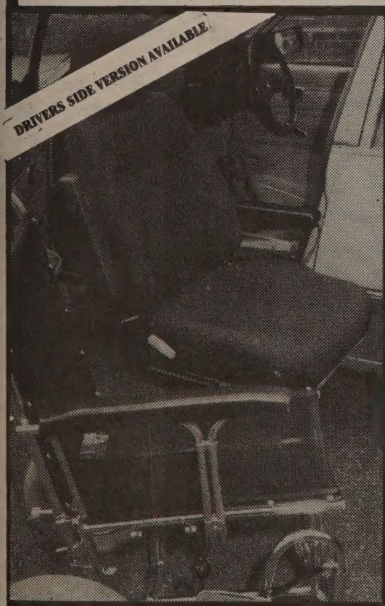
Stannah Lifts were showing their **Golden Rail** lift for curved stairs, which now has a new, slimmer track, a new motor cover design and an "ergonomically designed" seat. From £3,000, depending on location.

Stannah also have their **Silver Rail** straight stair lift, with rack and pinion rail, as offered to the West German market! **Stannah Lifts, Watt Close, East Portway, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3SD.**

Project and Design showed an updated version of the **Stair El** lift. This forward facing lift has an upholstered seat, which retains the original useful fold-flat facility when not being used.

A new departure on display was a side-facing lift. Prices start at £1,376. **The Project and Design Company, Longbeck Industrial Estate, Marske by the Sea, Redcar, Cleveland TS11 6HR, tel: (0642) 484802.**

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DN7/87

Click! Photography's the latest fashion

Karen Wingate visits Community Links in Camera

Photography is rapidly becoming a very popular hobby for disabled people. In the London borough of Barnet a group of about 18 people with disabilities have got together to form CLIC (Community Links in Camera) and are helping others to take up photography too.

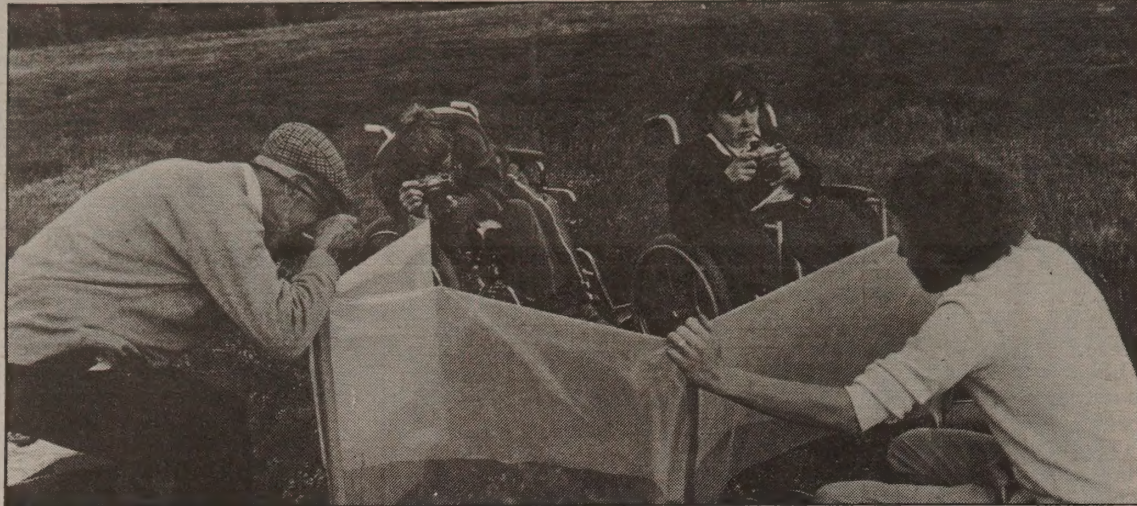
"Ideally there should be no need for us to form a separate organisation," says John Mason, secretary of CLIC. "All clubs should be accessible to people with disabilities. But CLIC is not a segregated organisation. We encourage participation in the community which will be the means for achieving a change in attitudes."

CLIC's aim is to enable disabled people to practise photography independently, and discover a new avenue for their self-expression.

The core group of 18 people with disabilities is helped by 6 able-bodied professional photographers, known as "photography workers". Funding comes from the London borough of Barnet, Greater London Arts and the London Boroughs Resource Unit.

CLIC is based at the Hendon College of Adult Studies, where they have built an accessible darkroom in a disused shower block. Members work on individual interests such as portraits and nature studies, or group projects, such as covering local events or disability arts festivals.

Much of CLIC's work high-



CLIC photographers in action, taking wildlife close-ups at Box Hill, Surrey.

lights the experiences of disabled people, often presenting active and positive images. Some members of the group also use their cameras as watchdogs to point out cases of discrimination: a picture story of British Telecom's new, inaccessible telephone kiosks was published in the local press.

"Through photography CLIC's members can inform and educate the public," says Maria Bartha, one of the photography workers, and a founder member. "We don't just want to point out society's failures either." Recently the group took a series of photos celebrating new wheelchair access to the local library.

CLIC also offers a service to disabled people. Members take passport photographs for those who cannot use photo booths,

and only charge 80p - the same price as the booth.

CLIC works closely with the disabled photography project run by CRAB (Community Recreational Arts in Barnet), its parent organisation, which encourages and helps others to take up photography. Informal workshops are held in residential centres, day centres and schools, and there is a stock of equipment and gadgets for people to try out

before buying their own. Through trial and error they have found simple and inexpensive ways to fix cameras to wheelchairs, and they can choose the right camera to suit different disabilities.

The darkroom at Hendon College was built by CLIC members in 1980. Although it is small, only able to take 2 wheelchairs at a time, it is ingeniously designed to be used by people with

all sorts of physical difficulties.

Sinks and electrical outlets are set low, and the taps have large, easy-grip handles. The developing tanks can be adjusted to any height. The two De Vere enlargers, bought with donations, are also height-adjustable, and have front controls easily reached from a wheelchair.

Space is currently the group's biggest problem, as the darkroom cannot cope with the growing number of people who want to use it. For some time they have been looking for new premises with space for a larger darkroom, a meeting room and an office.

Meanwhile, CLIC has been working on colleges which offer photography courses to make their darkrooms accessible. Some facilities at the London College of Printing can now be used by people in wheelchairs.

Membership is open to all disabled and able-bodied people interested in photography.

For more information on CLIC write to John Mason, c/o CRAB, Avenue House, East End Road, London N3 3QE or telephone Maria Bartha on 01-346 9789

You too can use a camera

This month the Disabled Photographers' Society is holding its annual exhibition at the Old Town Hall, Richmond, Surrey from 25 July to 8 August. Amateur photographers with a variety of disabilities will be competing for the 13 trophies.

The Disabled Photographers Society, formerly Photography for the Disabled, is a charity run by volunteers, which helps people with disabilities to take up photography as a hobby by providing advice and expertise on adapting cameras so that even the most disabled person can use one. The society has over 350 members, and each year helps hundreds more in schools and clubs around the country.

"No disabled person should be barred from being able to use a camera and enjoy photography just because of their disability," said Arthur Scrase, president and founder member of the society. "99 times out of 100 we can find a solution to overcome the difficulty".

For one man who was paralysed from the neck down a camera was adapted so that the wind-on and shutter mechanisms could be operated by suction. But no 2 people need the same kinds of adaptations; some people cannot hold a camera steady, others can't raise it to eye level and some cannot hold the camera at all. For these people, Arthur Scrase has designed a camera support which can be attached to the arm of a wheelchair and holds the camera steady. He now has them made in bulk and says he has sold hundreds.

Last year the society gave away £3,500 worth of photographic equipment, bought with



One of the success stories of the Disabled Photographers' Society is Ann Wild, 14, of Woodford, Essex who has spina bifida. She took up photography when she was 6, with a 10-camera bought at a jumble sale. Four years ago she held a private portrait session with the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after she told a reporter from the London Evening Standard, who spotted her work at an exhibition, that it was her greatest aim. The result, above, was a study of the PM in pensive mood.

donations and sent in by people who no longer needed it. After an appeal in *The Readers' Digest* in January, over 2,000 cameras were sent in.

The camera company Konica also gives a lot of financial support, sponsoring the exhibitions and providing film and other equipment at cost price.

The Disabled Photographers Society, 190 Secrett House, Ham Close, Ham, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7PE. Tel: 01-948 2342.

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OUTLOOK

THEATRE

The Longest

The stage at Deptford's Albany Empire was transformed into the end of a floating pier, complete with deck chairs and lifebelts, in Heart 'n' Soul's recent production, *The Longest*.

What followed was basically an old-time variety show with songs, jokes, some light-hearted tumbling and more songs. The kind of thing that gave Blackpool a bad name, in fact.

To suggest, as the press release did, that the show was anything more than this, or that there was a serious underlying theme to it all seemed to be pushing things rather. Like calling a spade a burial machine.

The music, by the Jodelko Jazz Quartet, was extremely polished and provided the real soul to the evening (except for the girl at the back who clapped her hands over her ears during most of the band's playing).

There was plenty of heart too in the acting performances, particularly those of the exuberant



The cast of *The Longest* put heart into the performance but the show failed to exploit their talents to the full.

MC Geoffrey, Andy the comic and the singer Pino. Indeed, the main disappointment of the show was its failure to exploit more fully the considerable talents of the stronger members of the cast.

It was fun, however, and is obviously a very worthwhile project in that it gives people with mental disabilities the same

opportunities as anyone else to participate in the arts and, through this, the community itself. That is to be wholeheartedly applauded – which cannot be said about this, ironically, rather-too-brief offering.

I think an audience deserves something more substantial and, yes, challenging.

Alan Durant

MOTORING

New automatic transmission could "revolutionise the market"

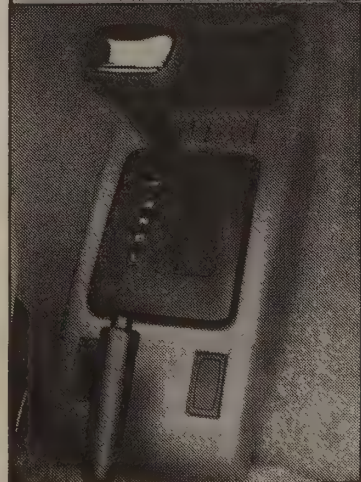
Last month saw the announcement of a new kind of automatic transmission designed for small cars. It could revolutionise the market.

Starting in the autumn, the 2-pedal Ford Fiesta and Fiat Uno will have continuously variable transmission (known as CTX). The effect will be to give them a 6-speed transmission that constantly and unobtrusively adjusts the gearing so that it is always in the best ratio for the driving conditions. Fuel consumption, it is said, will be the same as for a manual 5-speed version at the same speed.

The only other variable system was developed in 1950 for the Daf 35, and remained until the company was taken over by Volvo in 1976. (It is still available on the 1.4 litre Volvo 340.) While it made the most efficient use of the power from a small engine, it was inherently unreliable and many Daf owners had to fit a new rubber belt regularly.

The new transmission uses the same principles but with a belt made of steel bands. Its development was a joint operation between Van Doorne, Fiat and Ford, costing £120m over 4 years.

For smoothness and size – the gearbox in the Fiesta Automatic weighs 30 per cent less than the conventional automatic – it is



Above, the Ford Fiesta Ghia Automatic. Left, the Fiesta's new automatic selector lever

not a service part, so Ford must expect the band to last as long, if not longer, than the engine and the rest of the transmission.

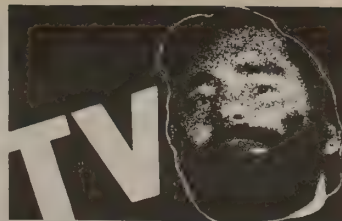
Inevitably, there is a price to pay. Ford is charging an extra £673 for its automatic; Fiat expect the selector will be priced at about £550 more than the manual Uno.

But the difference between manual and automatic may drop away as 2-pedal cars become more popular: the CTX is no more complicated than a manual gear box.

Unfortunately *Disability Now* and its readers do not rate highly enough to be allowed a test drive inside the next 9 months. By then there may be so many CTX cars on the road that no test drive will be needed. Hopefully, Ford will make a CTX car available to the Banstead Place Assessment Centre.

The new transmission is so exciting that I predict it won't be long before the small Ford Fiestas and Fiats come with a standard CTX gear box – and the manual gear box will be an additional extra.

John Byworth



Now its Same Difference

Same Difference arrives on Channel 4 on Monday 20 July at 6.00pm. It has been a long time in the making. Producer Martin Davison and the two presenters Peter White and Elly Wilkie, are adamant that this new addition to the group of disability specialist programmes will be different from the others.

The main difference is that it will interact with the viewers. There will be a weekly slot for airing viewers' responses which

could also affect successive programmes. Indeed, the final programme will be entirely comprised of reactions to the issues raised in the series.

The show will have a strong, humorous element, to belie the fact that disabled people are always taking themselves too seriously, and the opinions in the programme will be those of disabled people, not the so-called professional experts.

Among topics planned are "Disability and Abortion", and the pros and cons of "Community Care".

Same Difference will be shown twice weekly, the repeat showing (Saturdays, 10.45am) having subtitles and signing. For both broadcasts, 10 phone lines will be open on (0225) 446688.

If a programme can be judged by the people who make it, *Same Difference* would have no problems. They are, however, relying on us, the viewers, to complete the team. I'll be watching!

Philip Harris



Chris Davies talks to the team of *Same Difference*. From left to right: Peter White, Martin Davison, Elly Wilkie.

Taking on the World (C4, 21 May) was the second documentary to tell the story of spinally injured Mike Nemesvary. His outlook on life and mine are totally different, irrespective of disability, and I cannot identify with much of his personality. I applaud his rehabilitation, but regret another instalment of the "brave stalwart" treatment.

A Different Frontier (C4, 28 May) showed an amazing Icelandic expedition by a team of able-bodied and disabled people. Their achievement is undoubted, as is their fearless spirit, but the film was marred by a commentary which drooled over the "courage" of living with

"the tragedy of disability."

Cagney & Lacey (BBC1, 30 May) gave a copybook example of how to subtly portray disability within mainstream television. "The Right to Remain Silent" concerned a deaf girl apparently wrongly accused of murder. She claims she is persecuted because of her deafness but is eventually revealed to be a double murderer. The story cleverly used the pathetic stereotype of disability and proved that disabled people should not be invested with virtue. Brilliant!

Except for *Link* (ITV) and *See Hear* (BBC), disabled voters were precluded from General Election coverage.

Chris Davies

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BOOKS

Sticks and Stones: an autobiography

by John Hawkrige
(JH Productions, 4 Butterball Gardens, Leeds LS12 5JS, hardback normally £11.95, but £10 incl. p & p to DN readers)

"I am a spastic" are the opening words of this autobiography, a record of a man who refused to let his disability stifle his zest for living.

When John Hawkrige left school and went to college walking on 2 sticks, he realised his destiny was in his own hands and he was determined to give some purpose and meaning to the years ahead.

He began quietly enough — with fishing. There were anxious moments — climbing up and down awkward river banks, being blown on to a barbed wire fence, the unwelcome attentions of a frisky horse, and the occasion when he nearly drowned. Undeterred, he went on to win a number of angling competitions.

He progressed to camping and playing football. He acquired an invalid carriage and later a modified Mini.

In September 1968, when he was 20, he went to Keswick on holiday. He was captivated by

the mountains and decided he'd have a go at climbing Skiddaw. He chose a route up Carl Side from Millbeck, one of the shortest — and steepest — ways to the summit. He didn't make it. But there was no resentment; he vowed to return.

Next year he reached the top of Skiddaw by the popular tourist route up Jenkin Hill.

In 1971, on his sixth attempt, he climbed Great Gable.

Scafell Pike, England's highest peak, was another ambition achieved, and in 1974 he stood on top of Ben Nevis, 1000 ft higher — 9 gruelling hours up and 8 down, hands blistered to raw flesh, one of his sticks broken, feet sore and painful — the sole of one boot was worn through and the nails were holding it to his foot.

John decided he must see more of Britain — there's a lot of decision making in this book. And so began tours to Scotland and the Western Isles, the Channel Isles and the Scillies.

He was well and truly bitten by the travel bug. His tours of Britain were the springboard for adventures further afield — Spain and Switzerland, Italy and Greece, Turkey and Russia, and a couple of extensive trips to America.

Sticks and Stones reveals a man who has faced up to the reality of his own situation and taken positive steps to wring every ounce he can out of living.

George Bott,
One, Two, Three
BBC Radio Cumbria



John Hawkrige was one of the visitors to DN's stand at Naidex, where he met editor Mary Wilkinson.

How to push a wheelchair (7th edition)

by David Griffiths and David Wynne

(The Disabled Motorists' Club, West Midlands, Unit 2a, Atcham Estate, Upton Magna, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG, 50p)

Reading this booklet, I was reminded of the Department of Transport driving manual. Frequent sub-headings punctuate a practical text and the style is clear, disciplined, yet attractively humorous. Diagrams on adjacent pages show how to negotiate kerbs, steps and stairs.

As wheelchair users themselves, David Griffiths and David Wynne draw on a wealth of personal experience.

Focusing on the standard transit chair (large rear wheels, small front castors) their manual considers the best way to tackle various terrains, including "the Raised Threshold, a special curse provided by modern builders."

Transferring from a wheelchair is given step-by-step treatment. "Folding and storage" hints and "Handy hints for attendants" complete the booklet.

In those situations requiring an attendant, the emphasis is very much on teamwork. Texts so often dwell on the mechanics

of the wheelchair; it is refreshing to find one which recognises the person sitting in it!

As far as I'm concerned, this is a major contribution to wheelchair safety.

Philip Harris

Wheelchairs and their use: a guide to choosing a wheelchair

by Janet Weyers in association with Bert Massie
(Radar, 25 Mortimer St, London W1N 8AB, £2)

It still remains a fact that for many people today the idea of actually choosing a wheelchair is inappropriate. For them, a wheelchair is just a functional piece of equipment handed out by the DHSS.

If I'm right, this book will be a surprise. Choice does exist, for DHSS as well as private users.

It's one thing to have a choice, it's another to know how to choose. This book guides people to think logically and include all their possible needs. It is precise, comprehensive and thorough.

What a shame, then, that it is visually dull. Reference books don't have to look this way; it puts people off.

Chris Davies

What's On

Conferences and leisure

British Computer Society Disabled Specialist Group, will hold its 3rd annual conference on 9-10 July at University of London Goldsmith College, New Cross, London SE14. The theme of the conference is "High technology for the disabled - potential versus implementation". Further details from Pat Guntrip, tel: (0277) 227364 or W Abbott, tel: (024541) 2647.

Vocational Rehabilitation - A New Approach is a 2 day workshop on 15-16 July at Lambeth Accord, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 for people concerned with developing work related services for disabled people. The workshop will provide opportunity for an exchange of views and experiences between lawyers, practitioners, and administrators from the voluntary and statutory sectors. For details contact Christopher Hince, Rehabilitation Resource Centre, City University, Northampton Square, London E1. Tel: 01-253 4399 ext 4610.

The United Kingdom Sports Association for People with Mental Handicap will be holding their national training conference on 12-13 September at Sheffield City Polytechnic, Wentworth Woodhouse Site, Rotherham. Applications to attend are encouraged from voluntary workers and professionals in education, recreation, social services, health authorities etc. Details from Mark Southam, Hayward House, Barnard Crescent, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8PP. Tel: (0296) 436484.

Courses at Castle Priory

Understanding Hyperactivity - a course for all carers - parents teachers, health visitors, doctors - to learn about the possible causes and latest treatments. 18-20 September. Tuition £50, residence £47, non-residence £17.

Hampshire Assessment Materials - a workshop on the use of HALO (Hampshire Assessment for Living with Others) and HANC (Hampshire New Curriculum) for people with severe learning difficulties. 25 September. £25 inclusive.

Working with the Pre-School Child with Special Needs - a course for home liaison teachers and others working with special needs children and their families. 25-27 September. Tuition £50, residence £47, non-residence £17.

For more information about any of these courses, write to Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE. Tel: (0491) 37551.



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Simon Crompton



"Can the right foods boost brain power?"

"Someone has shown me an article, which was in *The Guardian* a few months ago, which suggests that the right type of food might boost brain power. Do you think a special diet might help my child, who is mentally handicapped and very faddy about his food?"

"Is it really true that some food additives can cause too much activity in a child? My daughter seems to be always 'on the go' and she's very easily distracted. I wonder if she is allergic to anything that I have been giving her?"

What would be the best way to find out whether any particular food or drink might be making her so difficult to deal with? I understand there is an organisation to help children with these problems. Can you give me details, please?"

What we eat and drink and the possible good or bad effects of certain types of food are of considerable importance to all of us. Growing children and many people with disabilities need special attention where diet is concerned: both *what* you eat and *how much*, or *how little*.

A study of 111 handicapped young adults aged 18-25, sponsored by ASBAH and The Spastics Society, is about to be published. Among other things, it reveals their nutritional condition. 15 per cent of those with cerebral palsy and 6 per cent of those with spina bifida were considered emaciated, ie extremely

Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

thin and undernourished, while 44 per cent of those with spina bifida but only 4 per cent of those with cerebral palsy were obese.

So the right diet is very important in maintaining good health, alertness and the ability to respond effectively.

An article appeared in *Therapy Weekly* earlier this year emphasising the importance of nutrition in the development and care of the cp child. In *The Independent* newspaper on 2 June these startling words were used in a review of *The Politics of Food*, a new book by Geoffrey Cannon: "British food and public health will remain just about the worst in the developed world until a new government commits itself to the transformation of the quality of the food supply."

This is certainly a very neglected area of our lives and urgent action needs to be taken.

To turn to the specific questions raised in your letters. There is no evidence to prove that any specific foods can increase brain power, but it is clear that if a child is not receiving the right amount of suitable food he will not be able to function properly and his abilities to learn may well be affected.

Many children with disabilities, and particularly those with cerebral palsy, have considerable problems with eating and drinking. Ensuring that a child or adult has enough nourishment can be a long drawn out and laborious task. Your speech therapist and dietician will be able to help you to work out a suitable regime for your child and your physio and occupational therapist can be invaluable in advising on positioning and suitable equipment. So, a well-balanced diet in sufficient quantities will ensure that your child is in the best physical condition to respond to education and stimulation both at school and at home.

As far as food additives are concerned, there have been no controlled trials to prove con-

clusively that certain food additives cause hyper-activity, though there is evidence that some additives and colouring matter do lead to hyperactivity, migraine and other symptoms in a few children and adults.

Anyone who is concerned about possible allergic effects should consult their doctor, who will advise what particular additives to look out for on the labels of food and drink products.

Living with a Hyperactive Child emphasises what the author considers the dangerous effects of allergic foods and pollutants on some children and you may like to read this book.

There is an organisation, the Hyperactive Children's Support Group, which will be glad if you get in touch with them about your daughter's problems.

Other ways to help modify overactive behaviour include good child-rearing practices, drugs and professional psychological advice. A short course on hyperactivity will be held at Castle Priory College in September. (See "What's on".)

It is important to try to take a balanced view about what can be a very difficult problem to cope with at home and at school.

Thomas, Bax and Smyth, The Provision of Support Services for the Handicapped Young Adult. Report to ASBAH. Copies from Dr Andrew Thomas, Department of Child Health, Westminster Children's Hospital, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2NS. £5.

"Food and the Child with Cerebral Palsy" by Sally Evans and April Winstock Therapy Weekly, 8 January 1987.

The Politics of Food by Geoffrey Cannon, Century, £14.95.

Living with a Hyperactive Child by Miriam Wood, Human Horizon Series, Souvenir Press £5.95.

Hyperactive Children's Support Group, 71 Whyke Lane, Chichester, Sussex PO19 2LD. Tel: (0903) 725182.

Announcements

Central Television Card Competition. Disabled artists living in Central's transmission area are invited to enter a picture or design for Central's company Christmas card. The winner will receive £500 and the chance to donate a further £500 to the charity of their choice. Closing date for entries is 31 July. For an application form send a SAE to Christmas Card Competition 1987, Central Independent Television, Central House, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2JP.

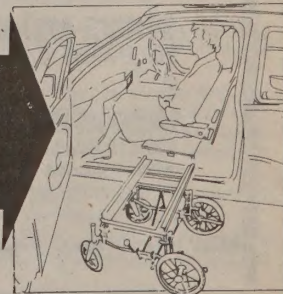
The Muscular Dystrophy Group 1987 Poetry Contest. Entries are invited for the Adult Section (14 years and over, first prize £50) and Children's Section (up to 14 years, first prize £25). You can submit as many poems as you like on any subject you like. All poems must be accompanied by a £1 entry fee and a sac. Closing date 1 August. Further information and entries to Nicola Bevan, Bracknell & Wokingham Branch, Muscular Dystrophy Group, 21 Frensham Road, Crowthorne, Berks.

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You are needed to carry out the full range of duties as a Project Leader or as a senior team member on large or complex projects, exercising autonomy in setting your work programme and displaying flair in resolving the needs and constraints which are set by client directorates. You are expected to be able to work on your own initiative and supervise assistants.

S02 £13,692 to £14,289 You should have:
a) professional registration as an Architect or b) work experience subsequent to RIBA Part 2 or RICS Part 3 or c) HND/C and 8 years' subsequent work experience or d) 12 years' relevant experience. **Please quote Ref: RP773.**

P01 £13,950 to £15,048 As S02 above plus two years' experience as a Project Leader or equivalent level. **Please quote Ref: RP774.**

SENIOR ARCHITECT/SURVEYORS

P03 £15,870 to £17,022 You are needed to provide a high quality Surveying/Architectural service on a range of projects. You must have a sound knowledge of building construction and contract administration. You need to be able to motivate staff and lead a team, work under pressure and provide guidance to other project leaders. You may also be required to represent the Head of Architecture at Committee Meetings and advise other officers and Councillors on professional matters.

You should have at least six years' experience as a Project Leader or equivalent level subsequent to either professional registration as a Surveyor/Architect or 12 years' relevant experience. We also have an immediate job share vacancy at this level. **Please quote Ref: RP764.**

SENIOR ARCHITECT

P02 £14,655 to £15,870 As P03 but with four years' experience in place of six. **Please quote Ref: RP775.**

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS

S01 £12,666 to £13,347 You are needed to assist on a variety of projects, to demonstrate flexibility, reliability, good design and technical ability, and contribute positively to the work of the group. You should have at least one year's post L1 Part 3 experience or nine years' work experience. **Please quote Ref: RP770.**

We are anxious to increase the number of people with disabilities at all levels in our Architects Department. Their insight and understanding is vital to enable us to plan the needs of people and build for the community.

Why not contact us now for full details of the posts listed below and to draw our attention to your specific needs in the working environment.

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

are needed for our lively professional office. You will join a team carrying out the full range of Quantity Surveying duties including the giving of advice to the Council in connection with its Building Programme. You are invited to apply for whichever of the following jobs interests you.

P01 £13,950 to £15,048 You should have 2 years' experience at Senior Officer level and the qualifications and experience as for S02 below. **Please quote Ref: RP769.**

S02 £13,692 to £14,289 5 years' experience subsequent to RICS Part3/BSc or 12 years' relevant experience. **Please quote Ref: RP768.**

S01 £12,666 to £13,347 3 years' experience subsequent to RICS Part3/BSc or 9 years' experience. **Please quote Ref: RP767.**

ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Sc6 £11,559 to £12,318 One year's experience subsequent to BSc (QS) or 6 years' experience. **Please quote Ref: RP766.**

Sc5 £10,320 to £11,229 Successful completion of BSc (QS) 3 years' relevant experience. **Please quote Ref: RP765.**

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

S02 £13,692 to £14,289 You are needed to carry out the full range of duties as a project leader or as a senior team member on large or complex projects exercising autonomy in setting your work programme and displaying flair in resolving the needs and constraints which are set by users and client directorates. You are expected to be able to work on your own initiative and supervise assistants. You should have at least two years' post L1 Part 4 experience or twelve years' work experience. **Please quote Ref: RP771.**

SENIOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

(This post is subject to approval as the grade is not established within the group)

P03 £15,870 to £17,022 You are needed to provide a high quality landscape architectural service on a range of projects. You must have sound knowledge and experience of all aspects of landscape design and construction and of contract administration. You need to be able to motivate staff and lead a team, work under pressure and provide guidance to other project leaders. You will be required, as necessary, to act as liaison landscape architect on schemes being handled by consultants. You may also be required to represent the Head of Architecture at committee meetings and advise other officers and councillors on professional matters. You should have at least six years' experience as a project leader or equivalent level subsequent to full qualification, or twelve years' relevant experience including two years' as project leader. **Please quote Ref: RP772.**

Job share applications are welcomed with or without a partner. The Council intends to decentralise its services therefore the duties, hours of work or location of these posts may be subject to change.

Why not contact our disability unit now to discuss your specific needs in the working environment? Tel. 01-986 3123, ext. 268, or fill in the coupon below.

Full information pack available from Town Hall, Mare Street, Hackney E8 1EA or telephone 01-986 5331 (24 hour answering service) quoting the appropriate reference.



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ADDRESS _____

I am interested in _____

vacancy/ies _____

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For Sale
MEYRA 3.402 POWERED CHAIR, right hand drive, kerb crawler. Good condition and working order. Complete with battery charger. £600 ono. Contact Mr Southard or Miss Chessman. Tel: Chipping Norton (0608) 2559.
NEWTON ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR. As new. Will accept £400 or nearest offer. Contact P. Rooney, 83 Norfolk Crescent, Failsworth, Manchester.
BEDFORD CF MOTOR CARAVAN, 'O' reg, fitted with ramps & clamps for wheelchair. £950. Tel: (0243) 266753.
NEWTON STREAMLINER TWO wheelchair, unused £150. Available in London. Tel: 01-673 5767.
ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS/SCOOTERS/BATTERY CARS. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half-price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons. Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

STANNAH GOLDEN RAIL STAIRLIFT. Carriage unit (chair and motor) as new £800. Costs £1,800. Rail for right hand side of stairs £100. Proceeds of sale will go to the Roy Holman Memorial Haematology Fund for research into bone marrow and leukaemia. Write to Mrs R Holman, "Merrimon", Park Gardens, Bath, Avon BA1 2XP.

DOUBLE BED FOR DISABLED: TENDER CARE. Rising head etc. Headboard and matching side cabinets. £600 ono. Delivery arranged. Tel: Oxford (0865) 735097.

Wanted
ORTHO-KINETIC TRAVEL CHAIR for a small child. Mrs Bishop. Tel: (0737) 833633.

Exchange
HONDA ACCORD EXECUTIVE AUTOMATIC with optional pull-out seat for disabled passenger. Will swap for Automatic car that carries passenger in own wheelchair eg Metro converted. Henry Mara 9.00-10.30am or 4.00-6.00pm. Tel: 01-444 0227.

Jobs
CHRISTCHURCH FORUM, Greenwich SE10 requires a **fundraiser/administrator** to develop an exciting new project providing a centre for disabled and able-bodied organisations to share work and facilities. The postholder will need skills and experience in fundraising administration, staff supervision, publicity and report writing. Salary £9,129 - £10,902 (O.L.W.inc) Details from Ian Owers, 89 Westcombe Park Road, London SE3 7RZ. Closing date 6 July. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Holidays
8-BERTH CARAVAN & BEACH HUT at Felixstowe, run by local Spastics Society. Both suitable for wheelchair users. For details contact Miss J M Wood, 50 High Road East, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9PU. Tel: (0394) 283794.

THORNBURY HALL HOTEL, Churnet Valley. Specialised facilities for all disabilities. Companion service available (no extra cost) to allow all the family to enjoy themselves. Conference facilities and study/craft courses available on request. Colour TV in all bedrooms, single rooms available. Games room. Hotel stands in 5 acres of ground amidst beautiful countryside. Prices from £21.50 a day full board. For a brochure contact Thornbury Hall Hotel, Lockwood Road, Kingsley Holt, Stock-on-Trent, Staffs ST10 2DH. Tel: (0538) 757220

Find-A-Friend
SUE, 28, would like an escort to occasional disco/pictures, theatres etc: able-bodied or disabled, either sex. Outgoing personality preferred. Kingston-upon-Thames. Please write to Box No 155, *Disability Now*, address on page 16 (marking envelopes Private & Confidential).

IRTON HALL SCHOOL, Cumbria. Malcolm Wood, who was at the school from 1966-1974, would like to contact fellow pupils from this time. Please write to him at Box No 156, *Disability Now*, address on page 16 (marking envelopes Private & Confidential).

ATTRACTIVE, active disabled girl, 23, would like male between 22-29 to write to her. Photo appreciated. Please write to Box No 157, *Disability Now*, address on page 16 (marking envelopes Private and Confidential).

'62 CLUBS. Association of '62 Clubs would like to re-establish contact with the current officers of any active '62 Clubs. Please write as soon as possible to T E Martin, Honorary Treasurer, 16 Clover Close, Spondon, Derby DE2 7QY.

YOUNG MAN, 29, who in spite of a serious car crash affecting speech and walking, lives in his own flat, would like to correspond with and hopefully meet a young lady of about 21. Neil Spratling, 28 Church Road, Watford WD1 3PU.

DISABLED MAN, in early 40s, requires an attractive female friend, preferably in the London area. Should have a sense of humour (I think you've got to have one these days), have speech and be able to use hands (as I'm unable to use mine). Please write to Box No 158, *Disability Now*, address on page 16 (marking envelopes Private & Confidential).

MICROJOB

Do you want to work in a challenging and exciting new area with room for enthusiasm and creative ideas?

Innovative new project working with people with disabilities in area of new technology employment and training is seeking TWO STAFF members to assist with the assessment and guidance of our clients. The skills and abilities we are looking for include:
experience in work with people with disabilities of any kind, an interest/experience in new technology and its use in developing aids or experience in vocational and careers guidance/counselling.
 You might come from any one of the caring professions and be wanting to try something different and you may have a combination of skills and experience to offer us.
 We are an EOP employer and particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.
 Salary in range £10,569-£11,262+LW
 Initial contracts will be until 30th June 1988
 Closing date: 17th July
 For further information/application form send SAE:
Microjob, South Bank Technopark, 90 London Road, SE1 6LN
 Telephone: 01-922 8819

GRAEAE This country's only full time company of performers with disabilities seeks the following for its TIE Team:
4 Performers (To start Sept 3rd: ITC/Equity contracts)
Co-ordinator
Outreach Worker (p/t)
 Also for its National Touring Company:
2 Stage Managers (To start Sept 21st: ITC/Equity contracts)
Re-advertisement: Women applicants for one year practical Director's Traineeship run in conjunction with the Arts Council of Great Britain. Ring 01-935 5588 for Job descriptions. Closing date for all posts is July 20th 1987. *GRAEAE is an Equal opportunities employer.*

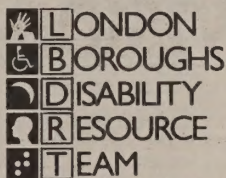
PATRONS: JENNY AGUTTER, BILL ASHE, PETER BLAKE, IAN DURY, CLAUDIA FLANDERS, MICHAEL SILVER, BRIAN STONE, JOHN WELLS



BETTER ACCESS TO MORE BUILDINGS

MORE ACCESS TO BETTER JOBS

REAL ACCESS TO REAL DECISION-MAKING



Head of Borough Liaison

These are the issues we're tackling at the LBDRT. Funded by and providing services for 11 London Boroughs, we represent the interests of people with all types of disability - physical and mental, visible and 'hidden' - striving to gain better access in all areas. And, as Head of our Borough Liaison Unit, you will have a key role to play in achieving it. You will be managing and motivating a group of people who work with councillors and borough officers to ensure that the needs and rights of people with disabilities are fully considered in the decision-making process. As a member of the LBDRT's management group, you will also be helping to shape the Team's overall policies and will have a personal responsibility for our work on behalf of people from ethnic minorities. Direct experience of disability is essential for this position as are excellent communication and organisational skills. In addition, you should be familiar with local government structures and procedures and fully aware of the activities already being undertaken by statutory and voluntary organisations. A salary of £13,245 to £15,420 is being offered together with a full range of benefits. For application forms and further details contact Jean Epps, LBDRT, Room 92/95, The County Hall, London SE1 7PB or by first dialling the RNID telephone exchange, tel: 01-387 1475/2105 and asking to be connected to 261 0194. Closing date: 17th July 1987. Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post with equal opportunities for women, black/ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities and regardless of marital status, age, creed/religion and unrelated criminal conviction. This post is open for job sharing.

KIRKLEES An Equal Opportunity Employer METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Office of the Chief Executive

As an Authority determined to combat inequality, Kirklees Metropolitan Council requires the following officers for its enlarged Equal Opportunities Unit:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Ethnic Minorities) Post No. 300572

POLICY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Women) Post No. 300574

POLICY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Disabled People) Post No. 300576

Salary: PO(B) £13,653-£14,862 Pay award pending

The focus of these posts is to initiate positive action measures primarily in respect to employment. The successful candidate will have experience of introducing, developing and sustaining new initiatives within a large organisation. The development of a community liaison role and improving links with the community is regarded as of prime importance to this process. The Officers will be responsible for facilitating the work of one of the Equal Opportunities Sub-Committees which will function as a forum for community consultation, therefore, experience of committee work and/or working within a similar consultative framework is essential. The postholders will also have involvement with equal opportunities complaints and a knowledge of relevant employment law is also extremely important. The successful candidate will have gained the relevant experience through working at a similar level for at least two years and now feel ready for the challenge which the additional responsibilities of this post will offer.

POLICY ASSISTANT (Ethnic Minorities) (2 Posts) Post Nos. 300585/87

(Responsible to Policy Development Officer - Ethnic Minorities)

Salary: Scale 5 £8,391-£9,216 Pay award pending

A further two posts have been created to focus upon race quality issues. The emphasis will be upon assisting the Policy Development Officer (Ethnic Minorities) to improve consultation between the Council and the black community. For this

reason the Policy Assistants will focus upon developing an outreach role - working with black groups in order to facilitate participation in the new Race Equality Sub-Committee.

The successful candidate will need to have experience, therefore, of working with black groups in the community.

Translation and Interpretation Service

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER Post No. 300600

Salary: SO1 £10,569-£11,271 Pay award pending

ASSISTANT TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER (2 POSTS) Post Nos 300602/604

Salary: Scale 5 £8391-£9216 Pay award pending

The Council wishes to improve access to its services and employment opportunities through the provision of information in the main community languages which are Urdu, Punjabi and Gujarati.

The Unit will liaise with Kirklees Directorates regarding their information and publicity requirements and undertake the necessary translation of documents. It will also establish an interpretation service through the compilation of a register of people who are qualified to act as interpreters and organise appropriate training for those on the register.

We are looking for candidates who can demonstrate their ability to speak, read and write clearly and accurately in English and one or more of the above languages.

For the senior post the successful candidate will need to co-ordinate and supervise the work and staff of the Unit and ensure that work deadlines are met. A recognised qualification in this field would be highly desirable.

All the above post holders will work closely together and a knowledge of equal opportunities issues in respect to all areas of disadvantage is highly desirable, as are commitment to and enthusiasm for the goals which the Council is seeking to attain.

Application forms are available from The Personnel Department, Kirklees Metropolitan Council, Pearl Assurance House, John William Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 1BA, Tel: 0484 22133 Ext. 308 or 280.

Completed forms to be returned by 31st July, 1987.

Community care - high costs for high quality

Care in the community is more expensive than in hospitals, but the quality of life for residents is better, says the first report to compare the cost-effectiveness of community care and institutions.

The report, published last month by the King's Fund, compares the costs and quality of 3 different kinds of residential services for mentally handicapped adults in the South-West: the Wells Road Service, a community based project funded by the local health authority, Farleigh and Yatton Hall hospitals, and three private sector hostels.

In all the services staff salaries accounted for about 80 per cent of the total cost. As the Wells Road Service had the highest staff to resident ratio (1:2) this helped to put up its costs to around £3,000 per resident higher than the hospitals (with a 1:6 ratio) and around £6,000 higher than the private hostels (ratio 1:4).

At the same time the high number of staff to residents at the Wells Road Service was one factor which gave it the best overall score for quality of life. The hospitals scored lowest in this area.

The private hostels were the cheapest of the 3 options, partly because of lower employer costs and differences in employees' conditions of service. The report suggests that if the same services were offered by the public sector the cost per resident would be £2,000-£3,000 higher. It also suggests that if the hostels ran a residential service more like that at Wells Road, it would put costs up by roughly £4,000 per person.

Quality, costs and 'an ordinary life'. Linda Davies. *The King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF. £4.50.*



Join the race! Eastenders star Wendy Richards and weathermen Bill Giles and Michael Fish announced the run up to The Spastics Society's national balloon race on 19 September by releasing 1,000 balloons into the London skies last month. Tags are available from Nationwide and Anglia Building Societies, who are sponsoring the event, and The Society's shops, for a donation of 50p. The person whose balloon travels furthest wins a family trip to Disneyland.

Low-cost design wins award

A speech recognition device which enables a child with cerebral palsy to use a computer by speaking won David Blackborow the Datasolve Award for Technological Innovation last month.

The Micro-Voice lets a child with little control over his movements write letters or stories on the computer, even if he cannot use a keyboard or other device. And unlike most speech recognition systems it does not cost the earth, selling for only £149.

"It's superb to see a speech recognition device available for the BBC computer, which is what most physically disabled people use, at a price they can afford," said Dr Janet Larcher, one of the judges.

David Blackborow was presented with a Thorn EMI liberator computer at the Computer Industry Charity Ball, organised by Datasolve. The ball raised £20,000 for The Spastics Society.

Blunkett

Continued from page 1

good job for his constituency and to communicate democratic socialist values to people. "Unless we change the way society operates as a whole, we really are whistling in the wind in terms of quality of opportunity and dignity for disabled people," he said.

Mr Blunkett is trying to persuade Westminster's bureaucracy to give him proper back-up facilities - mainly someone to read for him.

"I want people to be able to say that I've done something well or badly not because of my disability, but of me as a person," he said.

Disability Now

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Editor Mary Wilkinson
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Editorial Secretary Kathy Johnson

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Alarm systems under threat

Thousands of elderly and disabled people who are able to live independently because they have emergency alarm systems are to lose government help to pay for them.

From next April only those living in specially adapted sheltered accommodation will continue to have them paid for through housing benefit. But other people will have to meet the cost themselves - usually between £2 and £5.50 a week.

The new regulations were placed in the House of Commons library on the day Parliament adjourned for the election. They will be formally laid before Parliament in the autumn, but are not subject to amendment.

The proposed cut comes just as some local councils and charities like Age Concern and Help the Aged have launched campaigns to encourage elderly and disabled people to use emergency alarms.

A spokesman for Age Concern said the decision made a "non-sense of community care". "Most elderly and disabled people do not live in special housing and by definition if a local authority provides an alarm they are at risk. Some will be unable to afford the protection and may feel too vulnerable to remain in their home," he said.

London trains of the future

People with disabilities were invited to try out London's first wheelchair accessible railway last month.

The Docklands Light Railway, which will run from the Tower of London to the Isle of Dogs and on to Stratford, opens on 30 July. It was designed to be fully accessible to disabled passengers. All the stations have lifts with low-level buttons, and wheelchair users can roll straight on and off the trains.

"The railway is very accessible," said Merle Davies, who tried it out for *DN*. "A person in a wheelchair could use it almost independently. I didn't need any help except when I got stuck in the groove between the train and the platform."

Each train carries a "captain" who has done a disability awareness course and will help passengers if they have any trouble.

There are two wheelchair positions in every carriage, and no special straps are needed: passengers in wheelchairs are simply advised to put their brakes on.

"I felt very secure," said Merle Davies. "The track at times has sharp curves and steep hills, but I didn't feel shaken around."

John Wagstaff of London Regional Transport's Unit for Disabled Passengers said the Docklands Light Railway is the second fully accessible railway in Britain, after the Tyneside Metro in Newcastle.

Judges allow abortions

A 25-year-old woman with Down's Syndrome had an abortion after a High Court judge gave the go-ahead, it has been revealed. And last month another judge paved the way for a second mentally disabled woman to have the operation.

The Law Magazine reported in May that Mr Justice Lacey had authorised a doctor to perform an abortion on a woman with Down's Syndrome, in what seems to be the first case of its kind involving an adult. The operation has now been done.

Last month Mr Justice Reeve made a similar judgement concerning a woman said to be "severely mentally disabled". He ruled that the fact that she was incapable of giving informed consent to the operation was no legal bar.

The rulings closely follow the House of Lords decision that a 17-year-old mentally disabled girl should be sterilised. They again raise the question of whether judges can authorise operations on mentally disabled adults without their consent.

THE
ORTHO-MED
REHABILITATION/HEALTH CARE SERVICES

SNUG SEAT

The Ortho-Med Snug-Seat has been designed and developed by Rehabilitation Engineers to enhance the sitting position of the younger disabled child with moderate seating problems.



The Ortho-Med Snug-Seat is designed to be flexible in need and application. A modular system of pads enables adaption to the shape of the child, and the seat can easily transfer from home to car to baby buggy.

ORTHO-MED, 5 Loaning Road, Edinburgh EH7 6JE. Tel: 031-652 1603

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"Konica believe that SR-V 100... can be regarded as 'the best film in the world'... the independent checks that have been carried out on this film, attest that it is no idle boast nor promotional 'puffery'."—Dealerama

"Actually, the amateur, 35mm-only SR-V 100 is excellent. It is, probably, as they say, the best film yet made; its colours are as bright as Fujicolour HR 100 or Kodacolor Gold, and it has finer grain (as is always the case with Konica materials - no one disputes that they control grain extremely well)."

"The results from my first few SR-V 100 films impress greatly."—David Kilpatrick AMPA, Master Photographer



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